

Message Text

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14-11

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 PA-01 DIWY-01 OIC-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 515

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

INFO AMCONSUL LAHORE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, PINR, IWY, UN

SUBJ: PAK DELEGATION TO WCIWY

1. ACCORDING TO MFA, GOP DELEGATION TO WORLD CONFERENCE OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR WILL BE LED BY BEGUM (MRS.) NUSRAT BHUTTO, WIFE OF THE PRIME MINISTER. OTHER DELEGATES LISTED IN ORDER GIVEN BY MFA INCLUDE MRS. NASEEM JAHAN, MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (MNA) BOMRS. MOHSIN ALI KHAN; DR. (MRS.) FERROZA AHMED, JOINT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF HEALTH; AND MR. KHALID MAHMOOD, FIRST SECRETARY, PAK MISSION DHTO UN, NEW YORK. AT LEAST SOME MEMBERS INTEND TO ARRIVE IN MEXICO CITY ON JUNE 17 OR 18 FOR INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS IN ADVANCE OF THE CONFERENCE.

2. BEGUM BHUTTO, WHO IS ACTIVE IN THE NASCENT WOMEN'S RIGHTS MOVEMENT IN PAKISTAN, IS HEAD OF THE RED CRESCENT (RED CROSS EQUIVALENT) ORGANIZATION AND ALSO LEADS THE WOMEN'S WING OF THE RULING PAKISTAN PEOPLES' PARTY (PPP). WITHIN THE PAST YEAR, SHE HAS TAKEN AN INCREASING-

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LY PROMINENT ROLE IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND HAS LED HER

COUNTRY'S DELEGATIONS TO THE BUCHAREST CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND TO THE ANKARA INTERNATIONAL RED CRESCENT CONFERENCE. ACCORDING TO MFA, MRS. BHUTTO WILL FLY DIRECTLY TO MEXICO CITY FROM EUROPE AND WILL NOT TRAVEL TO THE U.S. (DEPT. WILL, OF COURSE, HAVE FURTHER BIOGRAPHIC DATA ON BEGUM BHUTTO.)

3. MRS. NASEEM JAHAN HOLDS ONE OF THE SIX NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SEATS RESERVED FOR WOMEN. IN HER FIFTIES, SHE HAILS FROM THE ARISTOCRATIC BUT POLITICALLY PROGRESSIVE MIAN FAMILY OF THE PUNJAB. HER MOTHER AND GRANDMOTHER WERE PIONEER SUFFRAGETTES. IN 1951 MRS JAHAN WAS RUMORED TO BE, WITH HER SISTER, ONE OF THE CENTRAL FIGURES IN THE LEFTIST, ANTI-GOVERNMENT RAWALPINDI CONSPIRACY. SHE WAS THEN MARRIED TO THE SOMEWHAT NOTORIOUS MAJOR GENERAL AKBAR KHAN (NOW SPECIAL ADVISOR TO THE PM FOR BACKWARD AREAS) AND WITH HIM SPENT TWO YEARS IN JAIL FOR INVOLVEMENT IN THE CONSPIRACY. SHE WAS DIVORCED FROM AKBAR SOME YEARS AGO. THE ONLY FEMALE MEMBER OF THE PPP'S CENTRAL COMMITTEE, NASEEM JAHAN REGULARLY SPEAKS OUT IN DEFENSE OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, FORCEABLY REBUTTING ATTACKS ON FEMINISM MADE BY CONSERVATIVE MNAS. SHE IS A GRANDMOTHER. HER ENGLISH IS REPORTEDLY QUITE GOOD.

4. THE BRIGHT, ATTRACTIVE AND VIVACIOUS MRS. MOHSIN ALI KHAN HAILS FROM THE NORTHWEST FRONTIER PROVINCE (NWFP) WHERE HER HUSBAND IS A MEMBER OF THE PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY FOR KOHAT. MRS. MOHSIN, ABOUT 30, IS A MEMBER OF THE PROMINENT KHATTAK FAMILY. HER FATHER, ASLAM, IS THE PAK AMBASSADOR IN TEHRAN AND FORMER NWFP GOVERNOR; HER UNCLE YUSUF IS CENTRAL MINISTER FOR FUEL, POWER AND NATURAL RESOURCES; AND ANOTHER UNCLE, LT. GENERAL (RET) HABIBULLAH, IS A PROMINENT PAKISTANI INDUSTRIALIST. NO DOUBT, HER INCLUSION ON THE DELEGATION OWES MORE TO HER CONNECTIONS THAN HER ACTIVITIES, AS SHE IS NEITHER A SOCIAL WORKER NOR ACTIVE IN ANY WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION. AFTER ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE, SHE PLANS TO VISIT HER BROTHER-IN-LAW, HUMAYUN ELAHI, WHO IS ON THE STAFF OF THE PAK EMBASSY IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WASHINGTON, AND HER SISTER. SHE SPEAKS ENGLISH WELL.

5. DR. FEROZA AHMAD, BORN IN 1933, GREW UP IN KARACHI. HER MOTHER WAS ACTIVE IN THE MUSLIM LEAGUE PARTY AND IN THE ALL PAKISTAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION, A SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANIZATION. DR. AHMAD DID GRADUATE WORK IN SOCIOLOGY AND POPULATION IN THE U.S. (PROBABLY UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA) WHERE SHE RESIDED FOR FIVE TO SEVEN YEARS.

SHE HAD BEEN IN HER PRESENT POST SINCE DECEMBER.
MARRIED TO AN AIR FORCE OFFICER, SHE HAS NO CHILDREN.
SHE SPEAKS ENGLISH WELL.

6. KHALID MAHMOOD, FIRST SECRETARY OF PAK MISSION TO
UN, NEW YORK, REPRESENTED THE GOP AT BOTH THE CARACAS
AND GENEVA LAW OF SEA CONFERENCES. POST HAS NO FURTHER
BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION BUT PRESUMES THAT U.S. MISSION,
USUN, NEW YORK, IS ACQUAINTED WITH MAHMOOD.
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